

Today's News - Wednesday, September 15, 2010

- Canada gets serious about making things easier for internationally trained architects to work within its borders.
- ULI's CEO reflects on the state of rebuilding efforts in post-Katrina New Orleans and is (mostly) impressed, though "how its suburbs grow is pivotal."
- New Orleans will also benefit from finalists' designs in the Natural Talent Design Competition.
- Sydney CBD to get pedestrian-friendly, considered good news by most (though some say "commuters should not hold their breath") + A big thumbs-up for the initiative in a city where streets have been constantly re-engineered "to make cars more welcome - but at the expense of everyone else."
- Karrie Jacobs goes in search of beauty, and is "startled" by the "disdain with which many of my students regarded the very concept of beauty" ("If someone says my work is beautiful, I'm insulted, says a student - how depressing that?!?").
- Perhaps her students should look into Michelangelo, a "radical architect" who "could be both Gehry and Piano, attention-grabbing...and self-effacing" (and perhaps a lesson for Hadid?).
- University of Iowa picks Pelli Clarke Pelli to design a new Hancher Auditorium (first one was lost to the '08 flood).
- University of Hawaii picks local talent to design a permanent home for its College of Pharmacy.
- A call for a halt to the "demolition job" being done on Melbourne's historic buildings while the city "sits on its hands."
- Bey brings to light the possible loss of "forgotten" work by Bertrand Goldberg that "disused, aging, and largely hidden from public view on Elgin's vast campus - might be lost to demolition."
- A blind architect relearns his craft: "The interesting riddle for me is: if you take sight out of the equation, what makes for good architecture?"
- Walter Hood finds value and meaning in places that seemingly had none: "I would rather design for a place that gets worn and messy than try to keep something in a pristine state that doesn't seem lived in." - Cheers (and some skepticism) for NYC's new rules to preserve community gardens.
- The American Academy in Rome's Adele Chatfield-Taylor named 12th Laureate of the NBM's Vincent Scully Prize.
- Sucher hopes the vociferous Prince Charles will not become King Charles, the "silent monarch."

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Government of Canada Invests in Internationally Trained Architects:
Architecture Canada will receive over \$1.6 million in Foreign Credential Recognition Program funding for its project entitled Integration of Broadly Experienced Foreign Architects in Canada project. - NewsBlaze

Post-Katrina New Orleans: Focusing on What Could Be: Patrick L. Phillips, CEO of the Urban Land Institute, reflects on the state of rebuilding efforts in New Orleans on the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. He sees an impressive level of planning, momentum and cooperation among stakeholders...As [it] continues the rebuilding process, how its suburbs grow is pivotal. - PLANetizen

Natural Talent Design Competition Finalists Announced: U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and the Salvation Army's EnviRenew program...focused on the ongoing efforts to rebuild New Orleans. Size, sustainability, affordability, and aging-in-place all were important elements... -- Buro Happold/Rogers Marvel Architects/Urban Green Council; FreeGreen.com/ZeroEnergy Design; Wuijoon Ha; Greenboy Design [slide show, links]- EcoHome magazine

Sydney to get pedestrian-friendly CBD: ...measures include slowing down traffic...and introducing light rail to the city centre...But the opposition...says commuters should not hold their breath. - ABC News (Australia)

Through and under the city: Sydney was not designed for cars...Streets laid out haphazardly in the late 18th century have been repeatedly re-engineered...to make cars more welcome - but at the expense of everyone else...the initiative...to reduce speed limits across the central business district, to reintroduce light rail, and to give more priority to pedestrians, is important.- Sydney Morning Herald

Eye of the Beholder: For today's students, the idea of urban beauty proves both elusive and downright confusing...What startled me [was] the disdain with which many of my students regarded the very concept of beauty. "If someone says my work is beautiful, I'm insulted"...consensus was that the term wasn't relevant because it doesn't mean anything. There were no longer universal standards for beauty...so why even bother? By Karrie Jacobs - Metropolis Magazine

Michelangelo, Radical Architect: His Laurentian Library [in Florence] toys with traditional forms, challenging our expectations of what buildings can do...demonstrated that he could be both Gehry and Piano, attention-grabbing...and self-effacing...Hadid's...MAXXI museum...is a stunning building...But it has only one register - loud. Compared to it, Michelangelo's ability to create a raucous visual symphony in the vestibule and to tone down the volume in the reading room seemed all the more remarkable. By Cammy Brothers [images]- Wall Street Journal

University of Iowa picks architect for new Hancher Auditorium, which was lost in the 2008 flood... -- Pelli Clarke Pelli; OPN Architects - Iowa City Press Citizen

University of Hawaii selects Honolulu group to design permanent home for College of Pharmacy: The site will bring together teaching, research, study, administrative and faculty office spaces that are currently distributed across seven different sites on the UH Hilo campus and the Hilo community. -- WCIT Architecture; SmithGroup - University of Hawaii

Demolition job on city heritage: A dozen historic CBD buildings are in immediate danger of disappearing while the City of Melbourne sits on its hands...the city has not updated its protected buildings list in more than 25 years: as a result, many heritage buildings are vulnerable to redevelopment...Is Heritage Victoria here to protect our heritage or to facilitate its demolition? By Rupert Mann/Melbourne Heritage Action- Sydney Morning Herald

"Forgotten" Goldberg: Does Marina City architect's work @ Elgin Mental Health Center have a future? ...1967 buildings - disused, aging, and largely hidden from public view on Elgin's vast campus - might be lost to demolition, preservationists fear. By Lee Bey -- Bertrand Goldberg [images]- Lee Bey's Chicago

Design Within Reach: A blind architect relearns his craft... "As architects, we're visual animals. The interesting riddle for me, then, is: if you take sight out of the equation, what makes for good architecture?" -- Chris Downey; SmithGroup; Design Partnership- The Atlantic

This Land is Your Land: Walter Hood is now transforming street corners and highway underpasses into public spaces that are relevant, even meaningful, to the communities they serve... "I would rather design for a place that gets worn and messy than try to keep something in a pristine state that doesn't seem lived in." - Fast Company

Community-Garden Rules Receive a Mixed Reaction: ...framed as a means of preserving the city's 282 community gardens...some said they wanted clearer guarantees that the garden lots would not be turned over to developers.- New York Times

National Building Museum Names Adele Chatfield-Taylor as the Twelfth Laureate of the Vincent Scully Prize: ...president of the American Academy in Rome...has consistently promoted excellence in the design world, while ensuring that the planning, architecture, and historic preservation disciplines remain connected to the public.- National Building Museum

Let Charles be Charles: With a history of active engagement in the built environment, will King Charles become a silent monarch, as some have claimed? David Sucher hopes not...Prince Charles offers a valuable voice in raising issues around the built environment by conversation and by action... - Poundbury; Foundation for the Built Environment ; Prince's Rainforests Project- PLANetizen



Richard Meier & Partners: Gagosian Gallery, Beverly Hills, California

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